Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Community Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience

Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program
Grant Opportunity Guidelines – Round 1

Opening date:	**Assessment cycle 1 – 14 September 2023** **Assessment cycle 2 – 9:01 pm AEDT on 12 October 2023**
Closing date and time:	Assessment Cycle 1 – 9:00 pm AEDT on 12 October 2023 Assessment Cycle 2 – 9:00 pm AEDT on 7 December 2023
Commonwealth policy entity:	Attorney-General's Department (the department)
Administering entity:	Community Grants Hub
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact Community Grants Hub Phone: 1800 020 283 (option 1) Email: support@communitygrants.gov.au Questions should be sent no later than: Assessment cycle 1 – 5:00 pm AEDT on 5 October 2023 Assessment cycle 2 – 5:00 pm AEDT on 30 November 2023
Date guidelines released:	14 September 2023
Type of grant opportunity:	Open non-competitive

Contents

1. Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia: processes 4

1.1 Introduction 5

2. About the grant program 5

3. Grant amount and grant period 9

3.1 Grants available 9

3.2 Grant period 10

4. Eligibility criteria 10

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant? 11

4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant? 12

4.3 What qualifications, skills or checks are required? 12

5. What the grant money can be used for 12

5.1 Eligible grant activities 12

5.2 Eligible expenditure 13

5.3 What the grant money cannot be used for 14

6. The assessment criteria 14

7. How to apply 17

7.1 Attachments to the application 18

7.2 Joint (Consortia) applications 18

7.3 Timing of grant opportunity processes 19

7.4 Questions during the application process 21

8. The grant selection process 21

8.1 Assessment of grant applications 21

8.2 Financial viability 22

8.3 Who will assess and select applications? 22

8.4 Who will approve grants? 23

9. Notification of application outcomes 23

9.1 Feedback on your application 23

9.2 Further grant opportunities 24

10. Successful grant applications 24

10.1 The grant agreement 24

10.2 Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012 25

10.3 Commonwealth Child Safe Framework 25

10.4 Multicultural access and equity 25

10.5 How we pay the grant 25

10.6 Grant payments and GST 26

11. Announcement of grants 26

12. How we monitor your grant activity 26

12.1 Keeping us informed 26
12.2 Reporting 26
12.3 Acquitting your grant 28
12.4 Grant agreement variations 28
12.5 Compliance visits 29
12.6 Record keeping 29
12.7 Evaluation 29
12.8 Acknowledgement 29
13. Probity 29
13.1 Enquiries and feedback 30
13.2 Conflicts of interest 30
13.3 Privacy 31
13.4 Confidential information 31
13.5 Freedom of information 32
14. Glossary 33
Appendix A. Map of Central Australia region 37

1. Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia: processes

Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is available under Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia.

These guidelines have been developed with a Grant Opportunity Guidelines Working Group to ensure that they are developed in line with community feedback and according to the

Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017 (CGRGs).

The grant opportunity opens

We publish the Grant Opportunity Guidelines on GrantConnect.

You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form and address all of the eligibility criteria and assessment criteria to be considered for grant funding.

We assess all grant applications

The Attorney-General's Department and the Community Grants Hub will review your application against the eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible. A Justice Reinvestment Selection Panel (the Panel) will be convened with a majority of First Nation representation.

The Panel will then assess eligible applications against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value for money.

We make grant recommendations

The Panel provides advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application.

Grant decisions are made

The decision maker (the Attorney-General or the delegate in the Attorney-General's department) decides which applications are successful.

We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.

We enter into a grant agreement

We enter into a grant agreement with you if successful. The type of grant agreement will be tailored to your context, the nature or complexity of the grant and risks involved.

Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We work together with you – in partnership – in support of a shared local agenda, strategy and plan of action, including funding support, monitoring and evaluation.

Evaluation of Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia

We evaluate your specific grant activity and **Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia** as a whole. We base this on information you provide us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information about the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia funding ($10 million over 4 years from 2023–24).

These guidelines were developed in accordance with the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017* (CGRGs).

Applicants are required to review these guidelines before filling out a funding application for Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the Attorney-General's Department (the department).

2. About the grant program

Justice reinvestment aims to prevent and reduce First Nations contact with the justice system in a particular place or community. It enables First Nations communities and leaders to come together to identify local solutions to local issues, using strengths of community, cultural knowledge and stories to measure progress over time. It offers a way for communities to drive local solutions through improved collaboration and partnership with governments and service providers.

The Australian Government is committed to working in partnership with First Nations organisations and communities to improve the justice outcomes of First Nations peoples, with a focus on turning the tide on incarceration and deaths in custody, in line with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the National Agreement) targets and Priority Reforms.

Funding for Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia

In the 2023–24 Budget, the Government committed $10 million over 4 years for justice reinvestment in Central Australia through the $250 million *A Better, Safer Future for Central Australia* measure.

Only Northern Territory community-led initiatives located in Central Australia are eligible to apply for this funding. For the purposes of Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia, 'Central Australia' is defined in line with the Northern Territory Government boundary. These boundaries are detailed on the map at Appendix A.

This funding is provided under the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002* (POCA). POCA provides a scheme to trace, restrain and confiscate the proceeds of crime against Commonwealth Law. Confiscated proceeds of crime are held within the Confiscated Assets Account (CAA).

Section 298 of the POCA provides a scheme that allows for funds held within the CAA to be given back to the community to prevent and reduce the harmful effects of crime in Australia.

Expenditure under section 298 of the POCA must be for one or more of the following purposes:

- crime prevention measures
- law enforcement measures
- measures relating to treatment of drug addiction, and/or
- diversionary measures relating to illegal use of drugs.

Because of this, funding for Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia delivered through this program must be *primarily focused* on crime prevention, or measures relating to treatment of drug and alcohol addiction, or diversionary measures relating to illegal drug use. Funding **will not** be provided for law enforcement measures.

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap

The National Agreement commits all governments to a new way of working in partnership with First Nations communities[1]. The National Agreement is historic – the first agreement to be negotiated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians as represented by the Coalition of Peaks.

The National Agreement centres on 4 key priority reforms to transform the way Australian governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including partnership and shared decision making between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments, and building better data and sharing access to the right data to support First Nations communities to make informed decisions with governments. Implementing the National Agreement is an unprecedented shift in the way governments work, by encompassing shared decision-making on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs to improve life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Priority Reforms are:

1. Partnership and shared decision making between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments.
2. Building the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled service sector in agreed outcome areas.
3. Transforming mainstream government services to work better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
4. Building better data and sharing access to the right data to support Indigenous communities to make informed decisions with government.

[1] More information about the National Agreement on Closing the Gap is available on the Closing the Gap website.

The National Agreement also establishes 19 national socio-economic targets to monitor Australia's progress to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including reducing the overrepresentation of adults and young people in the justice system. The justice targets are:

- by 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15% (Target 10) and
- by 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10 to 17 years) in detention by 30% (Target 11).

These priority reforms and targets are central to the Australian Government's commitment to justice reinvestment. The Central Australia Justice Reinvestment funding will prioritise partnership, and support shared decision making at a local level to address the over incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and children.

In August 2021 the Justice Policy Partnership (the JPP) was established as the first of 5 policy partnerships to be established under Priority Reform One to lead a nationally joined-up approach to transform justice systems through genuine partnerships between all levels of government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities. The JPP Strategic Framework directs the JPP to deliver a strategic initiative to ensure Justice Reinvestment is aligned with Closing the Gap and that community-controlled organisations are key partners in the process.

Justice reinvestment

The definition of justice reinvestment below is based on the definition of justice reinvestment in the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research's *Interim Key Findings Report*, which was drafted following a design process with 34 First Nations communities between March and May 2023 as well as state/territory representatives, philanthropic organisations, peak bodies and justice reinvestment experts.

While justice reinvestment is an evolving practice across Australia and internationally, for the purposes of the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program, justice reinvestment is defined by the following 4 key elements:

1. **Justice reinvestment aims to reduce First Nations peoples coming into contact with the justice system.** Under the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program, this will include community led work to prevent or reduce crime, or provide treatment for drug and alcohol addiction, or diversionary supports relating to illegal drug use.
2. **Justice reinvestment must be led by First Nations peoples united by a connection to place**. What this leadership in this context looks like will vary, but in short it is about First Nations peoples united by a connection to place exploring and implementing the 'ideas of the community' in whatever way 'that community decides to come together.' Incorporating self-determination and culture, this leadership manifests in different ways.
3. **Justice reinvestment has a systems focus.** Identifying and tackling a range of drivers contributing to contact with the justice system and incarceration through a life-course and preventative focus, but also through reform of government systems. Given the complexity of issues requiring attention, collaboration and partnerships with multiple stakeholders are essential.
4. **Justice reinvestment is also informed by data and evidence:** used to set priorities and measure progress, for instance. Data and place in these 2 contexts must be defined by First Nations people, including with reference to data sovereignty and governance principles.

Successful Justice Reinvestment Projects funded under this program will:

- aim to reduce First Nations contact with the criminal justice system through community led initiatives to prevent crime, or provide community led treatment of drug and alcohol addiction, or diversionary measures relating to illegal drug use
- be a First Nations and community-led project in Central Australia
- take a collaborative approach, and consider a systems focus
- take a place-based approach
- be informed by community knowledge and other data.

Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia

Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia is a non-ongoing program. Funding is only available through this grant opportunity from 2023–24 to 2026–27.

Applicants in Central Australia are also eligible to apply for grant funding under the National Justice Reinvestment Program. This is a separate program, and applicants interested in seeking funding under both programs must apply for each program separately.

The objective of this grant opportunity is to:

- support the development and delivery of community and First Nations-led justice reinvestment initiatives in Central Australia, with a specific focus on:
  - crime prevention
  - initiatives relating to treatment of drug and alcohol addiction
  - diversionary measures relating to the illegal use of drugs.
- This might include:
  - supporting the development, implementation, and evaluation of local justice reinvestment strategies and activities with a primary focus on crime prevention, treatment of drug and alcohol addiction, or diversionary measures relating to illegal drug use
  - supporting local project teams and leadership structures to undertake the work of developing, implementing and evaluating justice reinvestment strategies that are primarily focused on crime prevention, treatment of drug and alcohol addiction, or diversionary measures relating to illegal drug use.

The intended outcomes of this grant opportunity are:

- Community-led crime prevention in Central Australia to reduce contact with the criminal justice system and incarceration rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and young people, in line with Closing the Gap Targets 10 and 11.
- Contributing to strengthened community supports, treatments and diversionary measures for drug and alcohol use and addiction in Central Australia.
- Contributing to building a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Central Australia.

The Community Grants Hub will also administer this activity according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017* (CGRGs).

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

Funding for Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia is a commitment of $10 million (GST exclusive) over 4 years from 2023–24 to 2026–27, to support justice reinvestment initiatives that are primarily focused on crime prevention, treatment of drug and alcohol addiction, or diversionary measures relating to illegal drug use in Central Australia.

Only Northern Territory community-led initiatives located in Central Australia are eligible to apply for this funding. For the purposes of Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia, 'Central Australia' is defined in line with the Northern Territory government boundary. These boundaries are detailed on the map at Appendix A.

The funding breakdown for Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia across the financial years is below.

Financial year	Allocation of funds
2023–24	$2.5 million
2024–25	$2.5 million
2025–26	$2.5 million
2026–27	$2.5 million
Total	**$10.0 million**

Funding will be limited to the allocation of available funds each year.

For this grant opportunity (Round 1), up to $4.75 million (GST exclusive) is available from 2023–24 to 2026–27 (see the table below for the breakdown). The remaining $5.25 million will be allocated in future grant opportunities under this program.

Assessment cycles and allocation of funding

Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia is a 4-year commitment by the Australian Government. Applications can be received year-round. Communities can apply for funding when they are ready, and at a pace that works best for them.

This grant opportunity (Round 1) will run from 14 September 2023 to 7 December 2023, and applications will be assessed in 2 cycles:

- Assessment cycle 1 opens from 14 September 2023 through to 12 October 2023 (9:00 pm AEDT).
- Assessment cycle 2 opens from 12 October 2023 (from 9:01 pm) through to 7 December 2023 (9:00 pm AEDT).

The next grant opportunity (Round 2) will be open for applications on 8 December 2023.

To distribute funds equally across the life of Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia, and to accommodate multi-year grant applications, the amount of funding available in each assessment cycle will be allocated to ensure equity across financial years.

The breakdown is as follows:

Funding breakdown per financial year	Amount available for funding agreements in Round 1
2023–24 ($2.5 million)	$2.5 million (representing 100% of funds from column A to be in allocated in this financial year)
2024–25 ($2.5 million)	$0.75 million (representing 30% of funds from column A to be in allocated in this financial year)
2025–26 ($2.5 million)	$0.75 million (representing 30% of funds from column A to be in allocated in this financial year)
2026–27 ($2.5 million)	$0.75 million (representing 30% of funds from column A to be in allocated in this financial year)
Total	**$4.75 million**

In the 2023–24 financial year the $4.75 million available for funding projects until 2026–27 will be approved in 2 assessment cycles:

- Assessment cycle 1: $2.375 million
- Assessment cycle 2: $2.375 million.

As funding is available for multi-year grants, the above funding limits are made up of all the 2023–24 funding and a portion (30%) of the 2024–25, 2025–26 and 2026–27 funding amounts. This allows the program to approve some long-term funding while still ensuring that program funds remain to be committed in the future years.

There is no minimum or maximum grant amount but grants cannot exceed the amount of available funds in the financial year.

Any funds not allocated in assessment cycle 1 will be made available in assessment cycle 2. Any funds not allocated in the 2023–24 financial year will be made available in the 2024–25 financial year.

3.2 Grant period

The maximum grant period under these initial guidelines is 4 years (from 2023–24 to 2026–27).

The guidelines will be updated and developed for future grant opportunities under the same program, in ongoing partnership with stakeholders including state and territory government, philanthropic organisations and First Nations people.

4. Eligibility criteria

This section outlines who is eligible to apply for a grant under Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia. Eligible entities who apply for a grant will have their applications considered against the assessment criteria for the program (further details about these criteria is available at section 6). Receiving funding from other sources to deliver your justice reinvestment activity does **not** exclude you from receiving funding under the National Justice Reinvestment Program. Other sources of funding should be declared via the application form. Receipt of additional funding from other sources may demonstrate your readiness to deliver a justice reinvestment project. However, you may not be eligible if you receive funding for the same purpose from another government source that will entirely meet the costs of your proposed project under this grant opportunity.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible for this funding your community-led initiative must be based in the Central Australia area in the Northern Territory, as described by the Northern Territory government. A map detailing the Central Australia boundaries is at Appendix A.

Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia draws upon the strength and knowledge of First Nations communities. It is a 'place-based' initiative. This means you must demonstrate how you will centre your work on the needs of First Nations people living in your community, including by demonstrating you have support and authority to lead or act as the coordinating body for this work within a community, and that the work will be delivered in partnership with community members.

Priority Reform Two of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap aims to build a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country.

In line with the Australian Government's commitment to building strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and implement measures to increase the proportion of services delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, an application being from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisation or an application being from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation or Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that intends to, or can demonstrate a plan to become a community controlled organisation in the future will be viewed as a particular strength, and considered as a positive factor in assessing the balance of assessment criteria.

Definition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation and Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations

Organisation	**Definition**
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are incorporated, not for profit, at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation	These are organisations that are at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned OR at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).

We recognise that some organisations may want to join together as a consortium to deliver a justice reinvestment initiative under the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program.

In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'. The lead organisation is required to satisfy all the eligibility criteria. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with, and be solely accountable to, the Commonwealth for the delivery of grant activities. Eligible organisations can form a consortium with ineligible organisations.

For applications from non-Indigenous organisations, including for consortia applications, please provide evidence of a plan to transition to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisation in the future.

4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are a/an:

- International Entity
- Non-corporate Commonwealth Entity
- Person
- organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, that is included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, that is included on the Workplace Gender Equality Agency website on the non-compliant list.

4.3 What qualifications, skills or checks are required?

The department recognises the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework. If you are successful in receiving grant funding, you will be asked to comply with all Australian laws relating to employing or engaging people who work or volunteer with children. If successful, these details will be outlined and included as eligible expenditure in the grant agreement.

- Working with Vulnerable People registration – required for those staff who will be working directly with vulnerable people.
- Working with Children check – required for those staff who will be working directly with children.
- Or similar accreditation, if required, and as agreed between the parties.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

Eligible activities under the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia program should seek to prevent crime, or provide community led treatment of drug and alcohol addiction, or diversionary measures relating to illegal drug use, as determined by the needs of a particular community, and have strong local First Nations community leadership.

Eligible activities will be unique to each local context, and include a range of activities involved in setting up, running and evaluating community designed, based and led justice reinvestment activities or programs that prevent crime, or provide community led treatment of drug and alcohol addiction and/or diversion supports for illegal drug use.

Other eligible activities to support justice reinvestment activities and programs may include (this list is not exhaustive):

- Activities associated with community-led identification and implementation of justice reinvestment activities or programs, including creating and maintaining a local project team, systems and frameworks to support local leadership, and justice reinvestment plans and strategies to prevent crime, or provide community led treatment or diversion supports for drug and alcohol use or addiction**.**
- Programs that are targeted at crime prevention, community led treatment for drug and alcohol addiction, and/or diversionary supports for illegal drug use.

- Supporting activities that may be eligible include:
  - Activities that build support and engagement within a community, including communications products and community engagement sessions.
  - Activities related to data, including collecting and working with community data, stories and knowledge, setting up local data platforms and working with government data.
  - Activities to develop and implement monitoring, evaluation and learning to ensure community-led projects and programs contribute to the program's outcomes and objectives.
  - Activities associated with collaboration and working with stakeholders to advocate for changes to justice and other relevant systems.

5.2 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on agreed project activities**.**

Eligible expenditure items may include:

- costs associated with delivering any of the eligible activities outlined in section 5.1, including costs associated with capacity building
- costs associated with resourcing a local project team, and the tools to support local leadership, including:
  - wages for a small project team
  - staff training, transport, and accommodation
  - operating expenses such as office fit-out, rent, lease of computers, phones, administration
  - IT costs (including costs associated with data collection, storage and maintenance)
  - travel and accommodation costs for domestic travel for the purpose of stakeholder and community engagement activities directly related to the delivery of grant activities
  - professional development
- minor capital works directly relating to the proposed project or activity (improvements or maintenance of existing buildings), providing:
  - the work has a total cost of under $250,000
  - the work is completed within 12 months, unless otherwise agreed
    - noting that more time may be allowed for rural and remote areas
  - any work completed is within an existing structure
  - applicants can provide at the point of agreement the following:
    - a quote with itemised costs of work to be undertaken, if greater than $100,000
    - the scope of the works
    - if council approval is required
    - timeframe for works
    - proof of ownership/property owner consent to undertake works (including proof of the amount of time left on the lease)

- costs associated with consultancies, services, and support from justice reinvestment or other relevant experts
- other administrative or project related costs (that is, relating to data work, communications, community engagement and learning and development) as identified by the community and agreed with the department.

If successful, a final budget will be developed in partnership between parties and will form part of the grant.

Please note:

We may update the guidelines on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place when you submitted your application applies to your project.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The decision maker makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure.

You must incur the expenditure on your project between the start date and end or completion date for your grant agreement for it to be eligible.

5.3 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for the following activities, unless otherwise agreed with both the Panel and department:

- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- costs that have already been paid for from other sources
- minor capital expenditure over $250,000
  - noting that consideration may be given to increase this total for projects located in rural and remote areas
- moderate and major capital expenditure and construction
  - this includes expenditure involving complex and or high/risk refurbishments, or new building construction
- overseas travel
- the covering of retrospective costs.

This is not an exhaustive list and the decision maker may choose not to fund other activities based on the recommendations of the Panel.

6. The assessment criteria

Please address the assessment criteria below in your application.

Applicants will also be required to provide a proposed Project Budget and Activity Work Plan as an attachment to the application (see further details at section 7.1).

In assessing your responses to each of the criteria below, the Panel will rate the response as:

- fully meets the criterion
- partially meets the criterion
- does not meet the criterion.

Applicants must at least partially meet each of the criteria in order to be deemed suitable.

Fully meets the criterion	Partially meets the criterion	Does not meet the criterion
▪ All sub-criteria have been addressed. ▪ A good case has been made by the applicant through clear and convincing arguments that are supported by evidence. ▪ The applicant has provided relevant information for all of the sub-criteria. ▪ All the claims made are reasonable, generally convincing and well explained. ▪ All the claims made are supported by evidence. ▪ All the claims made and evidence provided generally link back to the grant activities and objectives/outcomes. ▪ All the evidence provided is relevant. ▪ Very limited areas of relevant weakness may have been identified.	▪ Some or most of the sub-criteria have been addressed. ▪ A satisfactory case has been made by the applicant through information that is generally relevant. While some information is ambiguous, overall a clear picture emerges. ▪ The applicant has provided some or mostly relevant information. ▪ Some or most of the claims made are reasonable and supported by some evidence. ▪ Some or most of the evidence provided is relevant. ▪ Some areas of relevant weakness have been identified.	▪ No real case has been made against the criterion or any of the sub-criteria. ▪ No relevant information has been provided or the response field is blank. ▪ No analysis has been provided or the sub-criteria are largely repeated. ▪ A very poor case has been made with limited information supplied. ▪ Any claims made may be inadequate, ambiguous or not clearly explained. ▪ Critical areas of weakness have been identified.

We encourage you to provide a level of detail and supporting evidence relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested.

Any data you decide to share with the Panel to support your application is yours and will be used for assessment purposes only.

The application form will ask you to provide responses to the following criteria:

Criterion 1

Why do you think justice reinvestment is a good fit for your community?

Tell us about some of the challenges in your community impacting First Nations adults and/or youth and the need for change. In your application:

- describe some of the factors driving contact with the criminal justice system among First Nations adults and/or youth, including information about crime prevention challenges, and/or issues with alcohol and drug use affecting your community
- provide examples of how First Nations community members are coming together to gather information, and build support for community-led change to improve outcomes
- describe the primary areas where First Nations community members are looking to lead and drive solutions, centred in local culture, knowledge and voices.

Criterion 2

What will you do with this funding if successful?

Describe your proposed project, plan or strategy and how it will:

- prevent and reduce crime and contact with the criminal justice system among First Nations adults and/or youth in your area, or
- provide community led treatment for drug and alcohol addiction, or diversionary supports for illegal drug use.

In your application:

- describe how First Nations community members have been involved in leading its design
- describe the connection between your proposed project, plan or strategy and the prevention of crime in your community, or addressing issues with alcohol and other drug use affecting your community
- describe how your project, plan or strategy will continue to be First Nations-led and centred around a shared connection to place
- describe whether you plan to collaborate with relevant services, stakeholders or organisations to achieve your projects aims. If so, who and why?

Criterion 3

How will you do it?

Describe how your organisation will deliver the project including providing information on:

- who will run the day to day operation of the project (for example, staff, budgets) and how will major decisions be made (for example, decision-making structure) over time
  - including thorough activity work plans or draft budgets, where appropriate
- how will you measure and evaluate progress over the course of the project (what data will you use, and what does success look like in your local context)
- if your organisation will seek financial, in-kind or logistical support from other organisations to maximise impact or strengthen the financial sustainability of the project over the long time (for example, non-government-organisations, philanthropic funders, service providers, local/state/territory governments).

As an open non-competitive grants program, applications will be assessed individually against the selection criteria without reference to the comparative merits of other applications.

7. How to apply

Before applying, please read these Grant Opportunity Guidelines alongside supporting information provided in the sample grant agreement, Questions and Answers and Fact Sheet provided.

These documents are found on the GrantConnect website. Any changes to grant documentation and addenda[2] will be published on GrantConnect. By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

You can only submit one application form for each assessment cycle regardless if you are applying in your own right or as the lead member of a consortium. If more than one application is submitted in the same assessment cycle, only the latest accepted application form will be considered.

To apply, you will need to:

- complete the online application form on GrantConnect
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments
- submit your application to the Community Grants Hub.

Further detail on relevant timeframes is below.

You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. The application form includes information to help you do this.

If you need more help about the application process, submitting an application online, have any technical difficulties or find an error in your application after submission, but before the closing date and time, you should contact the Community Grants Hub immediately on 1800 020 283 (option 1) or email support@communitygrants.gov.au. The Community Grants Hub does not have to accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

If we find an error or something missing, we may ask you for clarification or additional information.

This will not change the nature of your application. We can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your application after the closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

You will receive an automated notification acknowledging the receipt of your application.

[2] Addenda can include changes to existing grant opportunity documentation and/or publishing additional documents. Changes include but are not limited to corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications and system outage notices.

7.1 Attachments to the application

The following supporting information can be attached to your application.

Templates have been provided for your use, included in the grant opportunity documents, but these templates are not mandatory (for example, some applicants may prefer to use a pre-existing budget template).

Information that is **essential** to your application includes:

- a plan of the activities to be undertaken by your project and proposed draft budget
- for applications from non-Indigenous organisations or consortia applications, letter/s of buy-in[3] from relevant cultural authority/governance/leadership structures and appointment as lead organisation
- for applications from non-Indigenous organisations including for consortia applications, please provide evidence of a plan to transition to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisation in the future, or for other types of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-led organisations planning to become community controlled in the future.

Optional information that you may wish to include:

- evidence of support or indication of buy-in from community members/representatives and/or governance bodies, or state justice reinvestment body, either in the form of official support or letters of group support
- evidence of support from non-community representatives/stakeholders, either in the form of official support or letters of individual/group support or any other attachments you consider relevant
- the Trust deed and any subsequent variations, if applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust.

You are required to attach supporting documentation according to the instructions provided within the application form. If essential information is not provided the application will not progress to assessment.

Please note: There is a 2 MB limit for each attachment.

7.2 Joint (Consortia) applications

We recognise that some organisations may want to join together as a consortium to deliver a justice reinvestment initiative.

[3] Buy-in means some evidence of community support that the project/activities proposed will benefit the community and reflect what the community wants.

In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'. The lead organisation is required to satisfy all the eligibility criteria as outlined in section 4.1. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. You will be asked to identify all other members of the consortium in the application. Organisations will not be eligible to be members of a consortium arrangement if they are included on the:

- National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency website on the non-compliant list.

Eligible organisations can form consortia with ineligible organisations.

7.3 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You may apply at any time from 14 September 2023 onwards, however applications will only be assessed during assessment cycles. Once an application has been assessed it will not be assessed in future assessment cycles, unless it is resubmitted.

For this grant opportunity (Round 1), it is intended to hold 2 assessment cycles during the 2023–24 financial year, the assessment cycles are as follows:

- The first assessment cycle is from 14 September 2023 to 9:00 pm AEDT 12 October 2023.
- The second assessment cycle is from 9:01 pm AEDT 12 October 2023 to 9:00 pm AEDT 7 December 2023.

Applications can be submitted from 14 September 2023.

- Applications received by 9:00 pm AEDT on 12 October 2023 will be assessed in the first assessment cycle.
- Applications received between 9:01 pm AEDT on 12 October 2023 and 9:00 pm AEDT on 7 December 2023 will be assessed in the second assessment cycle.

Late applications – assessment cycle

We will not assess late applications for an assessment cycle unless an applicant has experienced exceptional circumstances that prevent the submission of the application for the current assessment cycle. Broadly, exceptional circumstances are events characterised by one or more of the following:

- reasonably unforeseeable
- beyond the applicant's control
- unable to be managed or resolved within the application period.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered on their merits and in accordance with probity principles.

How to lodge a late application

The late application request form and instructions for how to submit it can be found on the Community Grants Hub website.

Written requests to lodge a late application will only be accepted within 3 business days after the assessment cycle has closed.

While the program will always be open for applications, applicants seeking to have their application assessed in any assessment cycle who have missed the closing date and time relevant to that

assessment cycle will be required to submit a late application request to the Community Grants Hub via support@communitygrants.gov.au.

The request should include an explanation of the circumstances that prevented the application from being submitted by the relevant time, and a reason why the applicant does not wish to wait for future assessment cycle. Where appropriate, supporting evidence can be provided to verify the claim of exceptional circumstances.

The Justice Reinvestment Selection Panel Chair or their appointed representative will determine whether a late application will be accepted. The decision of the Justice Reinvestment Selection Panel Chair will be final and not be subject to a review or appeals process.

Once the outcome is determined, the Community Grants Hub will advise the applicant if their request is accepted or declined.

Expected timing for this grant opportunity

If you are successful, funding for your justice reinvestment initiative will be available from March 2024.

Table 1: Expected timing for assessment cycle 1

Activity	Timeframe
Closing date	9:00 pm AEDT on 12 October 2023*
Assessment of applications	by 15 December 2023
Approval of outcomes of selection process	by 3 January 2024
Notification to applicants	by 12 January 2024
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	by 5 February 2024
Earliest start date of grant activity	March 2024
End date of grant activity	30 June 2027 at the latest, based on your grant agreement

Table 2: Expected timing for assessment cycle 2

Activity	Timeframe
Closing date	9:00 pm AEDT on 7 December 2023
Assessment of applications	by 27 February 2024
Approval of outcomes of selection process	by 7 March 2024
Notification to applicants	by 19 March 2024
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	by 11 April 2024
Earliest start date of grant activity	June 2024
End date of grant activity	30 June 2027 at the latest, based on your grant agreement

** If a late application request to be considered in assessment cycle 1 is made but not approved by the department, the application will automatically be assessed in assessment cycle 2, unless it is withdrawn by the applicant or a new application is submitted to supersede it.*

7.4 Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, please contact the Community Grants Hub on 1800 020 283 (option 1) or email support@communitygrants.gov.au

The Community Grants Hub will respond to emailed questions within 5 working days. The Questions and Answers document will be updated to include answers to questions and addenda will be published on GrantConnect.

The question period will close at:

- 5:00 pm AEDT on 5 October 2023 for assessment cycle 1
- 5:00 pm AEDT on 30 November 2023 for assessment cycle 2.

Following this time, only questions about using and/or submitting the application form will be answered.

8. The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

Applications will be assessed based on the eligibility and assessment criteria as set out in these Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

The Attorney-General's Department and the Community Grants Hub will first review all applications for eligibility and compliance against the requirements of the application process only, not the assessment criteria.

If eligible and compliant, your application will then progress for assessment through an open non-competitive grant process against the assessment criteria (see section 6) by a Justice Reinvestment Program Selection Panel.

The Panel will be convened to review applications and assessment outcomes and make final recommendations to the decision maker as part of the non-competitive selection process.

Each application will be considered on its individual merits. When assessing the application, the Panel will have regard to:

- the selection criteria for the program (see section 6. Assessment criteria)
- the amount of funding sought
- whether it provides value for relevant money
- whether the applicant is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisation, or is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation or other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that intends to or can demonstrate a plan to become a community controlled organisation in the future
- the extent to which evidence contained in the application demonstrates the project will contribute to meeting its proposed outcomes/objectives.

The Panel may also offer an applicant the opportunity to talk about the information provided in their application. This is not an opportunity to provide new information, but rather an opportunity to talk via videoconference or teleconference about what you presented in your written application.

8.2 Financial viability

Applicants applying for $100,000 or more will be asked in their application to provide financial data from the last 2 full years' profit and loss statements and balance sheets (where available) in order to determine the organisation's financial risk. Based on the risk level, applicants may then be subject to a more in-depth financial viability assessment. You may be requested to provide further information or documentation to support this assessment.

The financial viability assessment can include:

- assessing the financial health of your organisation
- establishing whether you or relevant persons in your organisation (as applicable) have any adverse business history (for example, current or past bankruptcy).

The outcome of the financial viability assessment will be considered when assessing and/or selecting applications.

8.3 Who will assess and select applications?

The Community Grants Hub will conduct an initial eligibility and compliance check (confirming entity details, ABN and other mandatory information) on applications to determine if they are eligible and compliant. This review will be undertaken by Community Grants Hub personnel, who are trained to ensure consistent review of all applications.

Following the eligibility and compliance checks, officers from the Attorney-General's Department will then undertake a quality assurance screening to determine if sufficient information has been provided by applicants for the Panel to consider. Following the screening process, eligible applications will then move to the next stage of assessment by the Justice Reinvestment Program Selection Panel.

The Australian Government is committed to shared-decision making with First Nations people for this program (see: Priority Reform One [partnership and shared decision making] under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap). In alignment with Priority Reform One, the department will establish a multi-disciplinary Justice Reinvestment Selection Panel as detailed below.

The Panel will consist of 6 or more members, with a majority of First Nation members and may include members from the following categories:

- First Nations leadership from a non-government agency
- a Coalition of Peaks member
- a representative from the National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Legal Services
- persons with specialist knowledge of justice reinvestment
- a representative from the Commonwealth
- a representative from either a state, territory and local government
- a First Nations community member or leader
- a representative of a relevant philanthropic organisation
- a representative from the Central Australia region in the Northern Territory
- a standing member (from one of the above categories) to sit across all panels for consistency in recommendations (to mitigate the impact of panels comprised of different members due to availability and conflict issues).

A Selection Panel Chair will be selected by Panel members once the Panel is formed.

No more than 2 members will be from the same jurisdiction, and gender parity will be prioritised in convening the Panel.

Panel members will be drawn from a pool of eligible nominations and expressions of interest from First Nations people, government representatives and Justice Reinvestment experts.

All Panel members (including those who are not Commonwealth officials) will be required/expected to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRGs.

To ensure a fair and transparent selection process is undertaken a probity advisor will advise the Panel and a Probity Plan will be developed to identify and mitigate any actual or perceived conflicts of interest or probity risks.

A strategy for any potential conflict of interest that could be identified between the Attorney-General's Department or external officials and applicants will be in place. If any actual or perceived conflict of interest is identified, the member is required to immediately disclose the conflict to the department and agree to abstain from any decisions. All persons involved in the assessment process will be required to complete a Conflict of Interest form.

The Attorney-General's Department will, following receipt of all eligible applications, forward applications to Panel members. The Attorney-General's Department will provide secretariat support for meetings of the Panel to record key discussion points, and the recommendations made by Panel members.

The Panel may seek additional information from the applicant to assist in making its final recommendations. The Panel may invite you to talk about the information provided in your application. This is not an opportunity to provide new information, but rather an opportunity to talk via videoconference or teleconference about what you presented in your written application. This may delay completion of the selection process.

The Panel will recommend preferred applications to the decision maker to approve for a grant. The decision maker will be provided with information relating to all applications (not just those that are preferred).

8.4 Who will approve grants?

The Attorney-General or the delegate in the Attorney-General's Department will be the decision maker for this grant opportunity. The decision maker decides which grants to approve based on the recommendations of the Panel, taking into consideration any further information that may become known, including the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

The decision maker's decision is final in all matters, including the:

- approval of the grant
- grant funding amount to be awarded
- terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

9. Notification of application outcomes

The Community Grants Hub will write to you about the outcome of your application.

9.1 Feedback on your application

A feedback summary will be published on the Community Grants Hub website to provide all organisations with easy access to information about the grant selection process and the main strengths and areas for improving future applications.

Individual feedback will also be available upon request, with guidance provided by the department on how unsuccessful applicants can improve their proposal for future opportunities.

Applicants seeking individual feedback should submit requests to justice Justicereinvestment@ag.gov.au

Applicants may request written feedback or verbal feedback.

Written feedback will be provided within 14 days of receipt of the request. Verbal feedback will be provided as soon as practicable for both parties.

9.2 Further grant opportunities

Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia is a 4-year commitment by the Australian Government. It is an open, non-competitive program. There will be consecutive rounds open annually, which means applications can be received year-round.

During each assessment cycle, applications will be assessed individually against the selection criteria without reference to the comparative merits of other applications. If the department does not receive enough suitable funding applications in any one assessment cycle, then any unspent funds will be reallocated for the purpose of future funding cycles.

If you are unsuccessful in the first assessment cycle, you can submit a new application for the same grant (or a similar grant) in any future grant cycle under the program. If you choose to reapply, you may wish to include new information based on feedback provided by the department to strengthen your approach that may have prevented your previous application from being successful.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

As noted above, the Community Grants Hub will write to you about the outcome of your application.

If you are successful, you will be invited to enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

Each grant agreement will list the deliverables of your program/initiative, as well as general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. We will use 2 types of grant agreements for this grant opportunity – a Commonwealth Simple Grant Agreement or a Commonwealth Standard Grant Agreement. Our selection will depend on the associated risks and complexity of your project. Sample grant agreements are available on GrantConnect as part of the grant documentation.

You will need to negotiate and execute a grant agreement with the Commonwealth before we can make any payments (‘execute’ means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, we will work closely with you to finalise details. You may request minor changes to the variable components (for example, Activity details, deliverables) of the grant agreement during this process. We will review any changes to make sure they do not affect the grant as approved by the decision maker.

As part of the grant agreement we will develop an Activity Work Plan, which outlines the specific requirements for yourself and the Commonwealth in respect of the grant.

The Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program supports a new way of working with First Nations people through shared decision making, which is a key priority under Closing the Gap.

If you are successful, the department commits to work with you in support of your shared local agenda, strategy and plan of action, as well as through the funding support provided by this grant. If appropriate, you may propose to develop a collaboration agreement with the department, supplementary to your grant agreement, to capture other in-kind partnership contributions and accountabilities.

10.2 Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012

While you are required to be compliant with all relevant laws and regulations, you may be requested to demonstrate compliance with the following legislation/policies/industry standards:

- *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012* reporting requirements.

10.3 Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted the need for organisations to adopt child safe practices including appropriate screening of staff, mandatory reporting and adoption of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The Australian Government committed to a new Commonwealth-wide framework to protect children and young people it is responsible for – the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF).

The Australian Government has put in place ways to apply certain child safety requirements of the CCSF to grant recipients. A child safety clause will be included in a grant agreement where the Commonwealth considers the grant is for:

- services directly to children
- activities that involve contact with children that is a usual part of, and more than incidental to, the grant activity
- activities that involve possible contact with children that is irregular or unplanned.

The successful applicant will be required to comply with all child safety obligations included in the grant agreement prior to execution of the grant agreement. Irrespective of the child safety obligations in the grant agreement, you must always comply with state and territory legislative requirements for working with children and mandatory reporting.

10.4 Multicultural access and equity

The Australian Government's *Multicultural Access and Equity Policy* obliges Australian Government agencies to ensure their policies, programs and services – including those provided by contractors and service delivery partners – are accessible to, and deliver equitable outcomes for, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Grant applicants should consider how they will ensure their services will be accessible to people from CALD backgrounds. For example, service delivery partners may require cultural competency skills. In addition, services, projects, activities or events may require the use of professional translating or interpreting services in order to communicate with clients who have limited English proficiency. Costs for translating and interpreting services should be factored into grant applications.

10.5 How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the maximum grant amount to be paid. We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement.

If your grant agreement is for multiple financial years, then any unspent funds each financial year will be rolled over to the next financial year (upon request by the grantee and subject to approval by the department). However, any unspent funds remaining at the end of the grant agreement must be returned to the department.

10.6 Grant payments and GST

If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a Recipient Created Tax Invoice.

If a government related entity is deemed successful, GST will not apply.

The definition of a government related entity can be found on the Australian Taxation Office website

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of effect (when the grant agreement is signed by both parties) as required by section 5.3 of the CGRGs.

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

Continuous monitoring, evaluation and learning, informed by data where available and appropriate, is a key element of justice reinvestment that will look different according to each community context.

Successful projects will prioritise community-led learning, evaluation and reporting as part of their proposed justice reinvestment project or activity (see section 6, assessment criterion 3), and will include related key deliverables in their draft Activity Work Plan (see below) and Budget.

Funding for evaluation activities can be included in grant applications and agreements, to support successful grantees to measure activity progress and success over time, and to share these learnings with community members and other organisations involved in the work.

In addition to resourcing community-led reporting and evaluation, the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program requires grantees to have systems in place to meet their reporting needs, which will be outlined in their grant agreement developed in partnership with the department.

12.2 Reporting

Reporting – ad hoc reporting requirements

We need to know of any changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your grant, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform your Funding Arrangement Manager at the Community Grants Hub of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

The details of your Funding Arrangement Manager will be included in your grant agreement.

If you become aware of a breach of the terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

Please notify us of events relating to your grant where you would be happy to invite the Minister or their representative to attend.

Reporting – annual reporting requirements

Grantees will be required to submit reports in line with the grant agreement.

The Community Grants Hub will provide sample templates for these reports. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due.

You will be asked to provide an Activity Work Plan at the start of your activity. Each year you will also be asked to provide a Financial Declaration report and an Activity Work Plan report.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the size and complexity of the grant and the grant amount.

We may request to confirm details you have decided to share in your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to seek more information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

Activity Work Plan

You will be required to submit a completed Activity Work Plan on the template provided by us after execution of the grant agreement.

An Activity Work Plan will be used to outline the specific grant requirements. The Activity Work Plan documents planned deliverables, milestones and outputs for the funded project as well as risk management and community engagement relevant to the funded project.

Successful applicants' progress and outcomes against the Activity Work Plan including any compliance requirements will be monitored throughout the grant through an annual Activity Work Plan Report.

Financial Declaration report

- provide an end of financial year summary (refer to section 12.3 Acquitting your grant)
- details expenditure of the grant
- is **due after each financial year by 1 August**.

Activity Work Plan report

- providing evidence of progress against agreed grant activity milestones in the Activity Work Plan
- details the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- is **due by 1 February each year of the grant**.

Child Safety Compliance Statement report

You will be required to submit an annual Child Safety Statement of Compliance report, which ensures compliance with relevant state, territory and Commonwealth legislation, including Working with Children Checks, and with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The report must reflect that you have met the conditions as outlined in the Supplementary Terms of the grant agreement.

Reporting – Indigenous Data Sovereignty

The Australian Government acknowledges the rights of First Nations peoples to govern the collection, ownership and application of data about their communities, peoples, lands, and resources. Any data owned and provided by you before, during or after project delivery is yours. Ownership of data can be expressed through the creation, collection, access, analysis, interpretation, management, dissemination and reuse of Indigenous Data.

In keeping with Priority Reform Four of the National Agreement, the Government will work with communities and state and territory governments to promote access to data to support justice reinvestment, as well as strengthening local capability in data collection, management and analysis.

Ensuring the voices, expertise and lived experience of Indigenous peoples are included in data processes is a key feature of community-led justice reinvestment. Justice reinvestment projects are driven by data and informed by community priorities and insights to identify and address the root causes of First Nations contact with the justice system. Data is also an important tool to measure and evaluate progress and change. Developing local approaches to data gathering and analysis, including principles of Indigenous Data Sovereignty and governance, are key aspects of First Nations led justice reinvestment in Australia.

Grantees will continue to be required to share some project-specific information (financial declaration reports and Activity Work Plan reports), in line with the grant agreement.

12.3 Acquitting your grant

Financial declaration

We will ask you to provide an annual declaration of grant money, confirming it was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money.

Any unspent funds at the end of the agreement must be returned to the department.

12.4 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect the progress of your project. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by contacting your Funding Arrangement Manager at the Community Grants Hub. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.5 Compliance visits

We may request to meet virtually or visit you during, or at the completion of, your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will seek your permission to visit, in accordance with local protocols, and provide you with reasonable notice of any visit.

12.6 Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7 Evaluation

The department will engage an external, independent evaluator to work with all grant recipients to undertake an evaluation of Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia.

The department may seek your permission to use information from your application and progress reports for the purpose of completing this evaluation.

The department may also ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant is contributing to positive changes within your community in relation to reducing contact with the justice system among First Nations adults or young people. This will enable us to understand local improvements supported by the program and evaluate how these local improvements are contributing to broader, whole-of-program outcomes at the national level.

The department may contact you up to one year after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation.

These guidelines will also be regularly evaluated over the life of the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program and may be changed by the Attorney-General's Department based on user-feedback from First Nations peoples, the Coalition of Peaks, or other stakeholder groups over time. When this happens, the revised guidelines will be published on the GrantConnect website.

To ensure Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia and related policies are delivered in accordance with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap through a genuine partnership approach between the Commonwealth Government and community-controlled sector, the department and the relevant Coalition of Peaks member (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services) will jointly monitor and review the impact and effectiveness of the program to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are benefitting as intended.

12.8 Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a grant activity funded under the program, we may require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following:

"The Australian Government proudly supports this community-led partnership with funding provided under the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program."

13. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRGs.

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

Complaints about the grant process

Complaints about this grant process or the Community Grants Hub's service/s must be made in writing using the online complaints form on the Department of Social Services website, or by contacting the Department of Social Services complaints line.

Phone: 1800 634 035

Email: complaints@dss.gov.au

Mail: Complaints
GPO Box 9820
Canberra ACT 2601

Complaints about the Attorney-General's Department grant opportunity, selection process or grant decisions

The Attorney-General's Department's Client Service Charter apply to complaints about the grant program, selection process or grant decisions.

This grant opportunity will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the Attorney-General's Department. All complaints not specific to this grant opportunity or the Community Grants Hub's service/s (including the selection process and grant decisions) should be addressed to the Attorney-General's Department in writing to Justicereinvestment@ag.gov.au.

Complaints to the Ombudsman

If you do not agree with the way the Community Grants Hub or Attorney-General's Department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Community Grants Hub or Attorney-General's Department.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.2 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the Attorney-General's Department and Community Grants Hub staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel has a:

- professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer or member of a Justice Reinvestment Selection Panel
- relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently
- relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later think there is an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the Attorney-General's Department and the Community Grants Hub in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (section 13(7)) of the *Public Service Act 1999*. Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict of interest policy on the Community Grants Hub website.

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles. This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and give out information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the Privacy Act and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the Attorney-General's Department would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Privacy Act.

13.4 Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to give out to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the 3 conditions below.

1. You clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential.
2. The information is commercially sensitive.
3. Revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents that the Australian Government has, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act gives people the ability to get information held by the Australian Government and its organisations. Under the FOI Act, people can ask for documents the Australian Government has. People may not be able to get these documents if these documents need to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons who the information relates to.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Team
Government and Executive Services Branch
Department of Social Services
GPO Box 9820
Canberra ACT 2601

By email: foi@dss.gov.au

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals.
collaboration agreement	a collaboration agreement seeks to outline the intentions and commitments of collaborators seeking to provide resources and support to a particular community-led justice reinvestment initiative or project. It is intended to complement other existing partnership agreements (for example, Commonwealth Grant Agreements). A collaboration agreement confirms the contributions of all partners, consistent with the partnership approach underpinning the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. It sets out how partners will work together in support of a shared local agenda, strategy and plan of action. While a collaboration agreement is not legally binding, this does not lessen the commitment to the agreement.
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity.
Commonwealth entity	a department of state, or a parliamentary department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act.
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
Community	First Nations community or communities.
Community Grants Hub	the area of the Department of Social Services that provides a shared-services arrangement to deliver grant administration services on behalf of the Australian Government for client agencies.
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by.
co-sponsoring entity	when 2 or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it.
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.

Term	Definition
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant.
department	the Attorney-General's Department.
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
Funding Arrangement Manager	is the officer from the Community Grants Hub responsible for the ongoing management of the grantee and their compliance with the grant agreement.
grant	for the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: a. under which relevant money[4] or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money[5] is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement, and specifies the details of the grant.
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single Attorney-General's Department Portfolio Budget Statement program.
GrantConnect	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs.
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
Indigenous Data Sovereignty	is the right of Indigenous peoples to govern the collection, ownership and application of data about Indigenous communities, peoples, lands, and resources.

[4] Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

[5] Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
Justice Reinvestment Selection Panel	provides strategic oversight, advice and recommendations to the decision maker on assessed applications from the program specific, service provider composition and service location perspectives.
National Redress legislation	means the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018*.
place-based approach	this involves local level solutions to local issues being identified and developed by those connected to the same place or community. 'Place' in this context, might refer, for example, to Local Government Areas, suburbs in a town or city or townships. It might also refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander definitions of place, which could encompass a region or other geographical area across which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are culturally connected.
Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement, PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be grant programs. A PBS program may have more than one grant program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process involves the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
systems focus	This usually involves identifying and targeting a range of drivers of First Nations contact with the justice system and incarceration, as identified at a community level. These drivers may sit within the criminal justice system or in other areas (for example, in health or education), and be identified as impacting all age groups, including children and young people. Targeting these issues requires a holistic approach. They may also be targeted through a community-led push for specific reforms to government policy and practice in the relevant areas and/or for an increase in community-led decision-making and control more broadly.

Term	Definition
value with money	refers to 'value with relevant money' which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations. When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to the: ▪ quality of the project proposal and activities ▪ fit for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives ▪ absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved ▪ potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.

Appendix A. Map of Central Australia region